

WWII veteran to be honored with medals

Tech. Sgt. Jim Moser
Public Affairs

Columbus AFB honors a World War II veteran with a medal presentation ceremony at 10 a.m. Monday at the Columbus Club.

Retired Col. William Fitzroy is being presented with the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in combat over Germany and the Prisoner of War Medal.

He was awarded the two medals years ago on paper, but they were never officially presented to him.

Colonel Fitzroy started his military career by enlisting in the United States Army Air Corps on Oct. 21, 1941. He attended aircraft mechanics school at Wichita Falls, Texas. After graduation, he was selected for additional training at the Douglas Aircraft plant in Santa Monica, Calif.

He applied for and was accepted into the Aviation Cadet Program on Oct. 1, 1942. He graduated as a second lieutenant with an aeronautical rating as a pilot one year latter.

During World War II, Colonel Fitzroy was assigned to the 8th Air Force, 100th Bomb Group (H), England, and flew the B-17G in the European Theater.

He was among the first crews to fly daylight-bombing missions into the heart of Germany. He flew 35 combat missions over Germany. On his 35th and last mission on July 29, 1944, his airplane was shot down over Merseburg.

He bailed out at 29,000 feet. He evaded for 30 hours and was captured, interrogated at Frankfurt and sent to Prison Stalag Luft #1 at Barth, Germany.

He was liberated by the Russian Army in May 1945, and returned to the United States after being a prisoner of war for almost a year.

Columbus AFB people are invited to the ceremony honoring Colonel Fitzroy.

Silver Wings last issue

This is the last issue of the Silver Wings for 2003. The next issue will come out Jan. 9. Bargain line ads for that issue will be due by noon Jan. 5. The Silver Wings staff wishes everyone happy holidays and safe New Year.



Airman 1st Class Boto Best

Santa's wish list

Airman 1st Class Ryan Walsh, 14th Communications Squadron, shows Santa his squadron's Christmas card. The cards displayed at the front gate were judged Wednesday. The 41st Flying Training Squadron placed first, 14th Mission Support Group Logistics second and 14th CS came in third.

2003 great for Columbus AFB

Airman 1st Class Boto Best
Public affairs

The 14th Flying Training Wing had its last commander's call for 2003 at the base theatre Dec. 10.

Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th FTW commander, addressed several issues affecting the base including fitness, the Base Realignment and Closure Act, sexual harassment and discrimination, accomplishments and plans for 2004.

The first order of business was fitness. "It is a culture change," he said. "We're trying to create a culture where we're fit to fight."

Those on the Weight and Body Fat Management Program and the Fitness Improvement Program will retest and reclassify in January.

All squadrons will be tested by March 31. People will begin to test during their birth months thereafter.

Next on the agenda was the issue of base realignment and closure. He urged people not to listen to the rumors, printed or spoken.

"No one knows yet what is going to happen," he said. "It may mean combining, consolidating and incorporating bases and missions," he said. "But Columbus AFB is not a spokesperson for the issue."

Decision makers will gather and

evaluate facts and figures, and all decisions will be made at Air Force and Department of Defense level, Colonel Schmidt said.

He encouraged people to direct any questions to the public affairs office.

Thirdly, Colonel Schmidt reminded team members that the Air Force has zero tolerance for sexual harassment and discrimination and that it detracts from the mission.

"It's everywhere, but there is only one standard in the Air Force," he said. "Everyone has the same opportunity on a level playing field."

See YEAR, Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Commissary hours

The commissary is open Monday, closes at 4 p.m. Dec. 24 and is closed Dec. 25 and Dec. 26. For more information, call 434-7109.

Holiday decorations

Outside lights may be turned on from 5 to 10 p.m. daily. Lights may remain on until midnight Christmas Eve and Christmas. Lights and decorations cannot be attached to any part of the house by staples or nails. The housing office recommends using clips or tape. Lights must be removed by Jan. 6. For more information, please contact the housing facilities section at Ext. 7277.

Legal office

The legal office will be minimally manned from Monday to Thursday. Only emergency legal assistance will be handled. The office resumes normal hours Dec. 29. For more information, call Ext. 7030.

Christmas tree recycling

Collection dates on base for recycling trees are Dec. 26, Dec. 30, Jan. 2, Jan. 5 and Jan. 8. Trees must be out on curb by 9 a.m. and have no decorations on them. For more information, call Ext. 7406.



Kevin Sisson

Tack one more on

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the December promotees. Pictured are (from left to right, front to back): to airman: Jason Clark, 14th Contracting Squadron; to airman first class: Andrea Shircliff, 14th Communications Squadron, Nita Crawford, 14th Flying Training Wing, Xavier Coley, 14th Medical Operations Squadron, Belarty Dormetus, 14th Medical Support Squadron; to senior airman: Jennifer Anilao, 14th CS, Chris Bazil, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, Ray Newton, 14th CES, Melissa Jones, 14th Operations Support Squadron; to staff sergeant: Jennifer Beaupre, 14th Mission Support Group; to technical sergeant: Cory Santos, 14th MDSS; to master sergeant: Jerry Price, 14th OSS; to senior master sergeant: Willard Lacy, 14th Comptroller Flight. Not pictured are:

To master sergeant:

Barry Braswell, 14th OSS

To technical sergeant:

Robert Parker, 322nd Recruiting Squadron

To airman first class:

Rachel Franck, 41st Flying Training Squadron

Air Force announces wear guidance for new nametags; mandatory Jan. 1

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER — The Air Force has established both the mandatory wear date and proper wear for the new metallic nametag on service dress uniforms.

According to personnel officials, effective Jan. 1, the nametag must be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the nametag level with the bottom of the ribbons. It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel.

If a duty badge is worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket, men will center the badge a half-inch below the new nametag; women will center the badge a half-inch above the new nametag. An exception is when a command insignia is worn by either men or women, then the command insignia is worn either a half-inch above or below the nametag and the duty badge is worn either a half-inch above or below the command insignia, depending on whether the individual is a current or former commander.

When the maternity jumper is worn as the maternity service dress, the nametag should be centered on the right side and placed even to, or 1 1/2 inches higher or lower than, the first exposed button.

The nametag will also be worn on all pullover sweaters

on the wearer's right side with the bottom of the nametag level centered between the middle of the sleeve seam and the seam of the neckline. It will not be worn on the cardigan sweater.

For more information, Air Force members should contact the military personnel flight or commanders support staff.

(Editor's note: Nametags can be ordered at the exchange.)



U.S. Air Force photo

The new nametags are mandatory Jan. 1.

Mission Report

As of Wednesday

T-1A Goal: 1,589.0 hrs. Flown: 1,683.5 hrs.

T-37 Goal: 1,581 Flown: 1,861

T-38C Goal: 1,786 Flown: 1,831

Flying hours: Monday: 6:40 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday to Jan. 4: No flying

Franklin Academy school brings in top honors

Pam Warnken
Public affairs

Franklin Academy, where many base elementary students attend school, just won a \$5,000 award for improving its educational quality.

This award was in addition to a recent \$225,000 grant for updating its historic building. Mississippi Superintendent of Education Dr. Henry Johnson announced the \$5,000 award at the ‘Closing-the-Achievement Gap’ conference in Jackson. Franklin was among 12 public schools in Mississippi receiving the honor.

“We are extremely proud of these schools,” Dr. Johnson said. “They have utilized state, local and school resources to their maximum potential to achieve academic growth. They are truly examples of where we need to be.”

The federal No Child Left Behind Act directs every school nationwide to be accountable for reaching specific proficiencies by 2014. Along with sanctions for failing schools, each state must develop a system for honoring those making progress. This award is part of that effort.

Mississippi’s 12 winning schools, including Franklin, won based on a comparison of african-american and white student performance over a period of two years.

The three schools in each congressional district with the largest decrease in the african-american/white gap, with both groups improving, were identified.

In a school where there was not a large enough population of african-american or white students to compare, the group was pitted against the state mean. A second gap — economically disadvantaged students as compared to mid-

dle class - will be measured next year.

“I am so pleased that Franklin has been recognized and rewarded for our commitment to providing a quality education for every child,” said Dixie Butler, Franklin’s principal.

She said this shows how hard Franklin teachers have worked.

“Our teachers are busy planning how to make the best use of the \$5,000 that came with the recognition,” she said.

The award money came from the Closing-the-Gap Award fund, started by Dr. Johnson, and from federal funds.

Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, visited Franklin Academy during a Veteran’s Day assembly in November and was touched by the quality of the facility, the teachers and the great attitude of the students in kindergarten through fourth grade.

“The event was absolutely impressive, the best I have ever seen in an elementary school anywhere in the country,” Colonel Schmidt said. “Patriotic and professional, the presentation should have been televised live as a Veteran’s Day tribute. It was that good. The children were smart, motivated and extremely well-behaved.”

The Colonel said he took “one of our sharpest instructor pilots and a military working dog team” along for the Franklin visit.

The dog team and instructor pilot were a hit, but the children were the centerpiece of the day.



Airman 1st Class Boto Best
Brittney Simpson, Franklin Academy student, gets off the bus at the youth center for its school-age program.

“I wish every parent at Columbus AFB could have been there to see how great the kids and the teachers shined that day,” Colonel Schmidt said. “This school has many accomplishments, but we don’t always hear about the awards or see their successes. Lowndes County municipal schools are actually among some of the highest-ranked schools in the state, and Franklin Academy definitely leads the way.”

(Editor’s note: Columbus Municipal Schools new superintendent, Dr. Lester Beason, arrived Dec. 1 from New Mexico to oversee the schools. He’s already met with base officials three times for input and information sharing.)

CAIB meeting gives people opportunity to speak minds

Pam Warnken
Public affairs

The Community Action Information Board met Dec. 8 to review recent quality-of-life initiatives on base.

The board touched on several topics, including emergency contacts for the holidays and Army and Air Force Exchange Service news and child care.

A major emphasis was on a sexual harassment/assault hotline recently established by the Air Force.

A ‘smart card’ is being developed for base

personnel showing who people can call for help ranging from the hotline, Dial-A-Ride and the toll free number for the command post, (800) 982-4257.

“The card will be available just in time for the holidays, peak time for parties and a known high-stress period,” said Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander.

Steve Peña, exchange manager, reported on AAFES facility upgrades.

He said business is booming at Subway. Subway is hiring two new people and will soon begin taking phone orders.

Movie theater upgrades were also dis-

cussed. AAFES has invested in sound and equipment improvements, but attendance is still low. Children’s movies and G-rated films are the most popular.

Mr. Peña said strategies for improving the customer numbers will be considered.

The child development center is scheduled to open an annex in early January, said Jayne Abshire, family member programs flight chief.

The added space will create additional slots for permanent childcare and for hourly drop-in care to provide a babysitter for short periods of time.

The availability of drop-in care also depends on how many staff members are present in the center when a customer calls, Ms. Abshire said. There are regulations that mandate the ratio of care-givers to the number of children.

“Saturday’s Give Parents a Break will give parents a chance to shop and do other holiday tasks during this busy season,” Ms. Abshire said.

The quarterly CAIB is open to everyone on base. The goal of the group is to address issues and find solutions. For more information about CAIB meetings, call Ext. 2790.

new wireless transmission system for the fire department and Security Forces, and a new dog kennel.

Colonel Schmidt also commended the team for raising \$97,000 for the Combined Federal Campaign, \$10,000 of which was directly channeled back into the base community through the Happy Fund.

In closing, he urged the team to be financially responsible and take care of each other, especially the families of those who are deployed and on remote assignments.

AETC commander: An extraordinary 2003

Gen. Don Cook
AETC commander



RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — As we close out another very eventful year, I thought it appropriate I share some thoughts with you regarding the command’s performance this past year.

I’m proud to report the men and women of Air Education and Training Command met the goal in providing well-trained, combat-ready airmen for our Air Force. We all know the future security environment remains uncertain. But I am very confident that because of the outstanding work each of you has done, and will continue to do, the First Command will ensure our Air Force is ready with the right people, the right skills and the right training to address any contingency.

AETC continues to be engaged in operations in Iraq, as well as Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Since the shocking events of Sept. 11, AETC has deployed more than 9,300 people in direct support of the war on terrorism. Considering our education and

training mission and our small pool of 22,000 deployable positions, this substantial contribution represents about 1,000 people deployed at any given time.

At present, we have nearly 2,000 people deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Among those numbers are AETC security forces, communications specialists, transportation engineers and emergency medical care professionals to name only a few. Our airmen, many of them instructors in their respective career fields, are committed to expeditionary operations and are doing their jobs exceedingly well.

A short e-mail written by an AETC instructor nurse who was crewed with two new medical technicians serves to illustrate the point.

“We flew our first mission the other day,” the nurse wrote. “We picked up a 26-year-old security policeman with an AK-47 gunshot wound in the abdomen — a lot of internal injuries. Met him at the back of the C-130 with engines running. Took off standing up while resuscitating him. He looked good by the time we landed. A fairly routine mission, post severe trauma resuscitation — no big deal!”

The nurse’s e-mail is representative of just how well

our people have done and continue to do. Though an instructor, it was like second nature to this nurse and the med-tech team — they did what they were trained to do. In doing so, they saved the life of an American soldier. Other teams like them have treated more than 350 critically hurt soldiers and airmen and medically evacuated nearly 2,500 injured with an unprecedented low mortality rate of less than 1 percent.

The men and women of AETC have played a significant role in the war on terrorism on the home front as well.

Our intelligence schoolhouse at Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, Texas, now translates and exploits captured terrorists documents.

Our instructors are working side-by-side with students to decipher and analyze real-world intelligence, thereby providing invaluable experience for the students.

What our airmen were able to accomplish during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom would not have been possible if not for America’s ability and drive to exploit technology and spur innovation.

See AETC, Page 5

STRAIGHT TALK LINE

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better. Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command.

The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names are kept confidential. Messages are answered in the Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may also be brought to the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724.

People can also access the Straight Talk program through the Blazeweb at <https://columbusweb> and the main website at www.columbus.af.mil.

Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

Major floor damage in Building 218

Question: I work in building 218, the engine shop. Our floor is in terrible disrepair, which creates a safety and foreign object damage hazard. Is there any chance we can get our floors redone?

Answer: The 14th Civil Engineer Squadron has programmed the engine shop floor repair project into the 2004 fiscal year funding program. The base recently contracted floor repairs for all

of the hangars that were deemed to be in worse condition than your facility in 2003 fiscal year. This means that your facility is next on the priority list for floor repairs. This project has the support of DynCorp management and should be funded later this fiscal year. Thanks for your patience while we improve all of our facilities on a priority basis.

*Col. Steve Schmidt
14th Flying Training Wing commander*

SILVER WINGS

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Key phone numbers

Base Exchange.....	434-6013
Chaplain.....	434-2500
After Hours Care.....	434-2273
Civil Engineer Service Desk.....	434-2856
Civilian Personnel.....	434-2635
Clinic:	
Family Practice.....	434-2172
Appointment Desk.....	434-2273
After Hours Care.....	434-2273
Columbus Club.....	434-2489
Commissary.....	434-7106
Finance.....	434-2706
Housing Maintenance.....	434-7370
Inspector General.....	434-2927
Legal Office.....	434-7030
Military Equal Opportunity.....	434-2546
Security Forces.....	434-7129
Shoppette.....	434-6026

Life is too precious; Take care of others in Air Force

Gen. John Hopper Jr.
AETC vice commander



RANDOLPH AFB, Texas — As the festive holiday season quickly approaches, my family and I, like most people, look forward with anticipation to the fellowship of sharing with each other all this special season has to offer. But I am also aware, concerned, and saddened that during such a cheerful time, there are some in our Air Force family who succumb to feelings of loneliness, hopelessness, and that their lives are inconsequential. These feelings can be triggered by any number of circumstances, but the emotional stress it causes is sometimes the catalyst that drives people to intentionally hurt themselves.

As a family, we all must be concerned about this. We

are collectively responsible for the health and well being of all our Air Force family members. When one of our own has lost connectivity to our family we have a moral obligation to do all we can to nurture them and help them overcome feelings of despair. But above all else, we must help them understand that harming themselves is not the answer.

If you are aware of someone who is experiencing feelings of depression or loneliness, especially during this time of year, it is paramount you take them under your wing and make sure they know they are not alone. There are people to go to such as life skills support centers, family, friends, chaplains, mental health professionals, family support, child and youth services, health and wellness centers and family advocacy. These teammates are nearby with the professional capabilities and a commitment to help. But making the choice and the conscious effort to connect with those who can help is often the toughest job. That's why all of us must stay

engaged with our people over the upcoming holiday season, and remain vigilant to any signs of loneliness or depression that could result in suicidal behavior.

Every person in our Air Force family is invaluable to the Air Force mission. We could not be the world's most respected air and space force we are today without each and every one of you. Each individual's value as a person is unique and precious. We must cherish that and ensure all our people understand the singular worth they have.

In the spirit of this special season, I ask you to take special care of each other. I ask that if a situation warrants it, you make the hard choice and take the responsibility to prevent any loss to our Air Force family. My family joins me in wishing each of you the very best this season has to offer. Stay safe, stay engaged and please take care of each other.

(Editor's note: General Hopper is also the chairman of the AETC Community Action Information Board.)

AETC (Continued from Page 4)

Among the extraordinary events we witnessed this past year, two come to mind as defining moments in our Air Force: the centennial observance of manned flight and the introduction of the F/A-22 fighter into our training inventory.

These events share a common thread in America's history:

Our enthusiasm and willingness to exploit technology and innovation to guard the freedom generations of Americans have sacrificed so much to secure for our nation.

For our Air Force, the seminal event that triggered the past century of rapid technological advancement began with the courage and bravery of the Wright brothers.

This year's observance of the Centennial of Flight celebrates and honors those who made it possible for us to employ the awesome air and space power of today.

What began with a 12-second flight in the Wright's Flyer Number 1 on Dec. 17, 1903, has grown exponentially during the past century into America's unsurpassed commercial aerospace industry and the equally unsurpassed

global air and space defensive power of the U.S. Air Force.

It is fitting, as we celebrate the deeds of those early air pioneers, we also mark the dawn of an exciting era in AETC and the Air Force with the introduction of the first operational F/A-22 Raptor into our training curriculum at the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

The command's first F/A-22 was delivered Sept. 26. Since then, we've received our second aircraft and expect to receive one additional aircraft every four to six weeks.

The F/A-22 is an order of magnitude leap in offensive and defensive airpower. With its first look, first shot, first kill capability, the F/A-22 is a national asset engineered to guarantee soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, and our allies and coalition partners, the great advantage of freedom from air attack, freedom to

attack and freedom to return home safely. The F/A-22 is essential to America's national defense strategy and will guarantee America's military air dominance well into the future.

We have started our F/A-22 maintenance training and expect to

launch the Raptor pilot training program this spring when enough aircraft are on hand. The mission-ready aviators and maintainers we produce will represent a new era in airpower —

an era that begins on the heels of our nation's observance of 100 years of powered flight.

We are never far from our heritage as a flying and fighting force because aviation development is still a relatively modern phenomenon. To go from getting an airplane off the ground for the very first time to the tremendous capabilities the Raptor represents in less than 100 years is truly amazing.

Yet as great as the technological advances are, we have become the world's most powerful air and space fighting force because of our people — past and present. Whether it is engaging fully in the war on terrorism, preparing F/A-22 aircrews and maintainers or teaching a new recruit to march for the first time, the men and women of AETC remain linked to our heritage and focused on the future innovations, technologies and techniques that will sustain us as the best Air Force in the world.

Thank you for the tremendous job each of you has done this past year for our command, for our Air Force and for our nation. As you prepare to celebrate this special season, I ask you to keep our colleagues who remain deployed in harm's way in your thoughts and prayers.

The men and women serving at the headquarters join Diane and me in wishing you and your family the very best during this holiday season. Enjoy time with your families and friends, but be safe. We need you on our team as we embark on what I anticipate will be another eventful year in 2004.

Children enjoy pancakes, pictures with Santa



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez
Erin Graves, 8, sprinkles candy on a sugar cookie at Santa's breakfast.



Airman Cecilia Rodriguez

Airman Cecilia Rodriguez Public affairs

Despite the dismal clouds and drizzling rain, families braved the weather and dashed from their cars to the dry harbor of the festively decorated building.

Inside, senses awoke to the sight of vibrant décor, the sound of Christmas songs and the aroma of maple syrup and bacon.

More than 150 children and parents arrived at the youth center Saturday morning to enjoy a couple of hours of light-hearted holiday fun with their families, Santa and a few of his helpers.

BLAZE team volunteers ushered guests to tables inside the gym where they were served a pancake breakfast.

"I'm glad I helped out," said Airman 1st Class Andrea Shircliff, 14th Communications Squadron. "Having events like this for kids gives them a chance to really interact with one another, and it keeps them happy and in good spirits."

Shortly after the breakfast began, Santa's arrival was announced, and a "Ho, ho, ho" bellowed throughout the room as he stepped out onto the stage.

As Santa made his way toward his designated chair, bright-eyed children glanced back and forth from their smiling parents to the jovial, bearded man making his entrance, as if to ask, "Is that really him?"

Boys and girls quickly jumped in line to sit on his lap and candidly disclose their wishes for Christmas morning as parents and volunteers aimed their cameras.

"This year was my son Dillon's first time sitting with Santa," said Senior Airman Carrie Williams, 14th Flying Training Wing. "I thought he might cry like most small children do, but he sat content in Santa's arms. I'm glad his first experience was a good one."

With full tummies, the children scattered toward the games situated throughout the building and made their best efforts at winning prizes to take home. The bean bag toss, putt-putt golf station, pin drop, ring toss and milk bottle bowling challenged child coordination, while the door prize give-away and Christmas wheel of fortune provided gifts for lucky participants.

In the youth center lobby, children were given the chance to express their creativity while decorating sugar cookies and bags of "magic" reindeer food. Brownie and girl scout volunteers adorned small faces with painted Christmas trees, presents and candy canes.

"Breakfast with Santa was a great success this year," said Terri Graves, school-age program director. "We really love to see the children and their families enjoy themselves, and what better way to start the day than with a great breakfast and, of course, Santa?"



Airman Alexis Lloyd

Top: Evan and Aaron Peters, 11 months, sit on Santa's lap for the first time.
Left: Marcy Smith, 6, unwraps a door prize she won at the breakfast.

Speakers are needed for the Columbus AFB Speaker's Bureau. Anyone interested in speaking about the Air Force or their career field at civic clubs, career fairs, science fairs, elementary schools or high schools in the Golden Triangle area can come to the public affairs office and fill out an application. Call Ext. 7068.

South African earns wings, flies into history books

Airman 1st Class Boto Best
Public affairs

The crowd stands at attention as the South African, Botswanan and American national anthems play while the three countries’ flags hang side-by-side.

The tall South African student smiles as he walks confidently across the stage. He salutes smartly, and the crowd cheers as he receives his very first set of wings.

Second Lt. Jabu Kabini walks off the stage and into the history books as the first South African pilot to graduate the Aviation Leadership Program at Columbus AFB.

The road to becoming a pilot is long and challenging enough, not to mention the language barrier confronting anyone whose native tongue is not English.

Another issue confronting him was the fact that for the past 50 years, South Africa had become fairly isolated to international training of its military pilots. The country had no choice since its segregationist government was under sanctions from the international community. However, since its independence in 1994, the U.S. government has provided foreign military funding, permitting South Africa to send military officers to pilot training here in the ALP.

Lieutenant Kabini said being recognized and selected for the program was a source of motivation. “You know that people are watching, so you want to do well.”

He spent three months at the Defense Language Institute at Lackland AFB, Texas, taking English and a specialized aviation language course even before entering pilot training.

Upon arrival at Columbus, he began ALP, a 40-week flying training course in the T-37 Tweet, offered exclusively to international officers. It is designed to teach the principles and techniques of flying jet aircraft.

“My first two months here were very difficult,” Lieutenant Kabini said. “I didn’t know anyone here, I had never flown a jet before in my life and I had so many weather delays that I didn’t think I would finish on time.”

But despite his difficulties, he persevered.

Maj. Chuck Boothe, international military student officer at Columbus AFB, took note of Lieutenant Kabini’s determination.

“He was an excellent student,” Major Boothe said. “He worked very hard and overcame his challenges. In addition to his flying and studying, he is perhaps the best-known international student — almost everyone on base knows him. He played on the soccer league, was very active in a



Photos by Airman 1st Class Boto Best

Second Lt. Jabu Kabini, Aviation Leadership Program graduate, climbs into a T-37 Tweet for a navigation checkride.

church downtown and made many friends. Without a doubt, he is the international student who has made the most of his time here in terms of getting to know Americans and the Columbus area.”

He received his wings during the graduation ceremony of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 04-03 Dec. 12 at the theater.

Among the distinguished guests attending

Lieutenant Kabini’s graduation was Col. Jan Mienie, assistant defense and air attaché to the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C.

“Lieutenant Kabini was a bright student in officer training school, so we were confident that he would do well in this program,” Colonel Mienie said. “The international exposure has been beneficial to our pilots, and we are very thankful to

the U.S. Air Force for this opportunity.”

While Lieutenant Kabini benefited from the program, he in turn became an asset to his country. Programs like ALP are designed to foster relations between both countries.

While South Africa is not directly involved in the war on terror, it is important for the country’s military to be prepared to assist wherever or whenever needed, Colonel Mienie said.

“The South African air force is becoming more involved in regional peace-keeping missions to the point where the demand almost exceeds our capacity,” he said. “Our Boeing 707 and C-130 aircraft are regularly flying relief supplies to specific areas of Africa. The South African military was instrumental in providing humanitarian aid in conflicts in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the flooding of thousands of Mozambican villages in 2000.”

Lieutenant Kabini leaves Columbus AFB to return to South Africa Sunday. He has a 13-year contract with the South African air force and hopes to fly the Atlas Cheetah, a fighter jet manufactured in South Africa.

He hopes to advance in rank, and said if all goes well, it is highly possible that he will retire in the military.

“Maybe I’ll get to be a general one day,” he said laughing.

Not bad for the first black South African pilot to graduate from ALP.



Lieutenant Kabini puts on his helmet. He was the first South African pilot to graduate from the Aviation Leadership Program at Columbus AFB.

AT THE CHAPEL

Catholic

Sunday activities:

9:15 a.m. — Mass
10:30 a.m. — CCD
5 p.m. — Confessions
5:30 p.m. — Mass

Wednesday

11:30 a.m. — Mass

Protestant

Sunday activities:

9 a.m. — Sunday school
10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship
1 p.m. — Contemporary worship

Tuesday

Noon — Lunch and Bible study

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. — Dinner and Bible study

For Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox or other services, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

AT THE MOVIES

All movies are shown at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the theater.

Friday

“*Elf*” (PG, some mild rude humor and language, 99 min.)

Starring: James Caan and Will Ferrell.

Saturday

“*The Matrix Revolutions*” (R, sci-fi violence, some sexuality, 130 min.)

Starring: Keanu Reeves and Carrie-Ann Moss.

Dec. 26

“*Radio*” (PG, mild language, thematic elements, 105 min.)

Starring: Cuba Gooding Jr. and Ed Harris.

For more information about movies, visit www.cafbgrapevine.com.

CHANNEL 64

BLAZE 64 offers announcements for people living in base housing or the dormitories.

Call public affairs for more information at Ext. 7068.

Weekdays

9 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.

Air Force Television News

Monday through Jan. 2

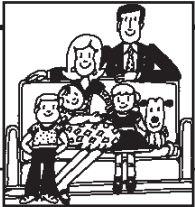
9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

College Level Examination

Program Tapes:

No tapes due to the holidays

FAMILY SUPPORT



Business starter: A seminar for people who are contemplating starting their own business is from 9 to 10 a.m. Jan. 6 at the family support center.

Discussions will be on pros and cons, accounting and tax information for owning a business.

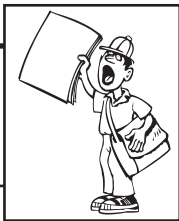
To sign up or for more information, call Ext. 2839.

ADD seminar: This seminar for parents of children who have attention deficit disorder or adults who have ADD is from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Jan. 7 at the family support center. Coping skills, symptoms and treatment options will be discussed. People must register by Jan. 5. For more information or to register, call Ext. 2790.

Executive seminar: The Executive Transition Assistance Program seminar is from Jan. 27 to Jan. 30 at Lackland AFB, Texas.

The seminar is for people who hold advanced degrees and must be in senior leadership positions. To learn how to apply, call Ext. 2790.

BASE NOTES



Chapel events: The base chapel sponsors a variety of activities this holiday season.

Catholic events include a children’s Christmas pageant, Mass and a social at 8 p.m. Dec. 24, Christmas day Mass at 10 a.m. Dec. 25 and New Year’s Eve Mass at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31.

Protestant events include a children’s Christmas program at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, caroling in base housing at 6 p.m. Wednesday and a candlelit service with communion at 5 p.m. Dec. 24.

For more information, call Ext. 2500.

Scout information: The Boy Scouts are having a sleepover Jan. 3 and Jan. 4 at the SAC Alert Facility. The scouts will work on a fingerprinting badge. For more information, call Greg Johnson at 343-5362.



Airman 1st Class Leigh Utz

Scout’s honor

Charlie Burgess, Troop 52, Tyler Boswell, Troop 52, and James Prillhart, Troop 62 in Hamilton, Ala., recite the Boy Scouts Oath at the Court of Honor Monday. The two troops gathered at the awards ceremony in the family support center to receive new badges and rank advancements. People interested in joining the scouts can call Greg Johnson at 343-5362.

Commissary scholarship program: A \$1,500 academic scholarship is offered to the children of active-duty, retired, guard and reserve military members.

The deadline to submit an application is Feb. 18.

The goal is to award at least one scholarship at every commissary location, depending on the number of qualified applicants and funding. For more information, call Ext. 7106.

Tax relief: The Military Family Tax Relief Act of 2003 increases the death gratuity payment to \$12,000 tax-free; changes the capital gains exclusion for home sales by military members; increases the deduction for many travel expenses incurred during duty-related travel; and extends tax return filing deadlines for those serving in a contingency operation.

The death benefit increase is retroactive to Sept. 10, 2001.

The capital gains exclusion for home sales is retroactive to 1997. Military members who have sold their homes since 1997 have one year from Nov. 11, 2003, to request a refund for any tax paid on the sale.

Uncharged leave: Five days of uncharged civilian leave has been directed by President George W. Bush for fed-

eral employees returning from Guard and Reserve duty in the war on terrorism.

The Nov. 14 memorandum covers all employees activated for military service in connection with operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

OSC social: The Columbus Officers’ Spouses’ Club’s next social is at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 13 at the Columbus Club.

The menu is a Pacific buffet, and cost is \$10 per person. Club members receive a \$2 discount.

Deadline to reserve is by noon Jan. 6. For reservations or more information, call 434-8723 or email airtex60@yahoo.com.

OSC scholarships: The Columbus Officers’ Spouses’ Club offers scholarships to graduating high school seniors and continuing education students.

Each applicant must be a dependent of either an active duty, retired, missing-in-action, active-duty reservist or deceased military member associated with Columbus AFB.

Applications are available at the education center, family support center or high school guidance offices.

Deadline to enter is Feb. 6. For more information, call 240-1519.

Many opportunities to participate with Services

Catfish buffet: The Columbus Club offers an all-you-can-eat catfish buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays. Cost is \$5.95 for members and \$7.95 for non-members.

Customers may still order off the a la carte menu. Call Ext. 2490.

Silver Star casino trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip today. Cost is \$15 per person and includes transportation and \$15 in coin. Call Ext. 7861 for reservations.

Play NTN games: The enlisted lounge now offers free NTN games for members and \$2 for two hours for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2489.

Football Frenzy: Enter to win in the club's Football Frenzy program. The enlisted lounge is open Mondays from 6 to 10 p.m. for this program. The prizes include tickets to the Super Bowl and a Pro Bowl game. For details, stop by the enlisted lounge.

Youth holiday day camp: The youth center offers a holiday day camp for school age children during the Christmas break. Fees are based on family income. Call Ext. 2504.

Golf pro shop holiday sale: The Whispering Pines Golf Course pro shop offers a holiday sale where the customer selects their discount from their holiday tree after they have selected their merchandise.

Discounts range from 5-percent to 50-percent. Call Ext. 7932.

All-ranks brunch: The Columbus Club offers a brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Jan. 1821. Cost is \$8.95 for members and \$10.95 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2489.

Mexican lunch buffet: The Columbus Club offers this special lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 7. Cost is \$5.95 for members

and \$7.95 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2490.

Ski the Smoky Mountains: Register by Jan. 9 at the information, ticket and travel office for this trip Jan. 17 to Jan. 19 to Gatlinburg, Tenn. Cost is \$199 and includes transportation, two night's lodging, lift tickets and rentals. If you do not require rentals cost is \$170 per person or for those nonskiers cost is \$125. A deposit of \$50 is required upon registering. Call Ext. 7861.

Harlem Ambassadors: This exhibition basketball team will play the Possum Town Trotters at 7 p.m. Feb. 5 at Columbus High School. Advance tickets go on sale Jan. 5 at the information, ticket and travel office. Call Ext. 2337.

Mardi Gras trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers this trip to New Orleans Feb. 14 to Feb. 16. Cost is \$165 per person and includes transportation, two nights lodging at the Holiday Inn. A deposit of \$50 is required when registering. Call Ext. 7861.

Quick shot bingo: The bowling center offers quick shot bingo anytime the bowling center is open. Cash prizes. Cards are \$1 each. Call Ext. 2426.

Free squadron bowling parties: The bowling center offers two free hours of bowling for an official squadron function anytime between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Shoe rental is 75 cents per person, if needed.

There is no limit as to how many times a squadron takes advantage of this free offer, but it must be reserved in advance with the bowling center staff. Call Ext. 2426.

Birthday parties: The Strike Zone Lanes offers three different birthday party packages ranging in price from \$3.50 to \$4.75 per person. Stop by to pick up a brochure on what is offered with each



Pam Wickham

Going camping?

Matt Wilburn, outdoor recreation technician, gets a camper ready for a customer. Outdoor recreation offers these pop-up campers on a daily, weekend and weekly rate. Rates range from \$45 to \$500 for daily rental, \$70 to \$90 for weekend rental and \$180 to \$220 for weekly rental. They also offer campers with restrooms. For more information, call Ext. 7861.

Holiday rides: Christmas carriage rides through the historic Southern district of Columbus are offered Dec. 19 to Dec. 21.

The white-decorated horse carriages are stationed at the Tennessee Williams Welcome Center beginning at 5 p.m. Dec. 19, and 10 a.m. Dec. 20 and Dec. 21. Tickets are \$15 per couple and children under 12 are free. No advanced tickets are sold. For more information, call 329-3533.

Trees of Christmas: The Columbus Public Library displays "Trees of Christmas" until Dec. 31.

The handmade decorations represent literary and musical themes. Exhibits from elementary students, private collections, and garden and community clubs depicting the holiday season are on display. The displays are free to the public.

The library is located at 314 7th Street North. For more information, call 329-5300.

Children's theatre: "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" is performed by the Columbus Players, a children's theatre. Performances are at 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday in the Rent Auditorium at the Mississippi University for Women's campus. Tickets are \$5 for children under 12 and \$10 for adults.

Princess theater: J & the T-birds along with Side Project bring their own unique sounds to the Princess Theatre in downtown Columbus from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information, call 327-6789.

Twilight Thursday: A Twilight Thursday lecture series is at 6 p.m. Jan. 15. "The Real Brothers Grimm: The German Fairytale Trail" will be held in conjunction with the Mississippi Univeristy of Women's International Series. Admission is \$5 per person, and the series is at the Rosenszweig Arts Center. For more information, call 328-2787.



Courtesy photo

Pre-Civil War home tours

Festively-decorated antebellum homes downtown are open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today through Sunday. Admission is \$7.50 per person to tour one home or \$18 per person to tour three homes. Tickets are available at the Tennessee Williams Welcome Center or by calling (800) 920-3533 or (662) 329-3533. The welcome center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

BARGAIN LINE

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one): Home Transportation Miscellaneous Yard sales Pets

Print advertisement: _____

Name: _____

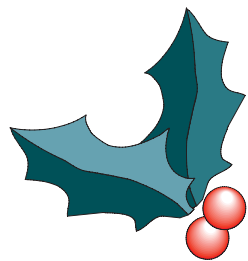
Home Telephone #: _____ Duty Telephone #: _____
(in case we need more information)

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:

Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes ☐ No ☐

What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News ☐ Sports ☐ Photos ☐

If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@columbus.af.mil.

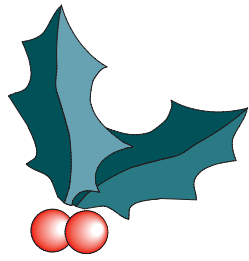


Services holiday hours

The 14th Services Division holiday hours can be found at their website:

www.cafbgrapevine.com

For more information, call Ext. 2337.



SHORTS

Cosmic no-tap bowling

Cosmic no-tap bowling with a spin is today at the bowling center.

Sign up by 6:45 p.m.; games begin at 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Bowling expertise not required.

Holiday fun run/walk

A 1.5-mile walk or a three-mile run is at 11 a.m. today at the fitness center. There will also be various door prizes given away.

Contestants of all ages are welcome. Call Ext. 2772

Bowl by mail

A Bowl by Mail tournament starts Sunday and lasts until Jan. 5 at the bowling center. There are age groups for females and males from 5 to 18 years old.

Those who participate must check in with the front desk at the bowling center and the staff will verify the scores. Participants can bowl between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and will bowl three games, which they have to pay for themselves.

The scores are mailed up to the Air Education and Training Command. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

Skeet range

The skeeting and trap range has open shooting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays. The range is located next to the golf driving range toward the SAC Alert Facility. For more information, call outdoor recreation at Ext. 2507.

Spin class

Spin classes are at 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the fitness and sports center. The class is a one-hour self-paced training session of sprinting, resistance

Fitness center holiday hours

The fitness and sports center is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 24, closed Dec. 25, open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 26 to Dec. 28, 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Dec. 29 to Dec. 30, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 31 to Jan. 2. The center returns to its normal hours of operations Jan. 3.



Staff Sgt. Billy White

Pilates positions

The pilates class shows off pyramid of flexibility. The class is offered from 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information about the 20 different classes offered at the fitness and sports center, call Ext. 2772.

climbing and jogging all on a stationary bike. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

Nine-pin no-tap

A nine-pin no-tap tournament is scheduled every Friday except when cosmic no-tap is happening. It starts at 7 p.m. at the bowling center.

Sign up by 6:30 p.m. The center will pay for one place for every four entries and there will be both a men’s and women’s division. Entry is \$10 per person. For more information, call Jennie Hodges at 434-6723.

Kindergym childcare

Kindergym is offered from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the fitness and sports center.

This program is for people with friends

who can take turns watching each other’s children while working out.

This is an opportunity for mutual motivation and free childcare. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

Personal trainers

Personal trainers are available at the fitness and sports center to spice up a workout routine or help a person get more out of their workout. For more information, call Ext. 2773.

Fitness 101

People who want to get in shape but aren’t sure how to use all the fitness and sports center’s machines can schedule a Fitness 101 class.

The center shows people how to find their target heart rate and to use all of the equipment.

Classes are by appointment only. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

Aerobics classes

Aerobics classes ranging from beginning step, kickboxing, spinning and yoga are offered every week at the fitness and sports center.

There are 15 different classes every week. For information on class times, call Ext. 2772 or stop by the center for a schedule.

Tumbling tots

A class for ages 18 months to 4 years is offered at 10:30 a.m. Thursdays at the youth center.

The first class is free. The cost is \$40 for the first child and \$35 for the second. For more information, call Ext. 2504.